

Message Text

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10/45

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4276

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

SECDEF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BONN 4933

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 1 L I N E 7 F O U R T H W O R D

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP

SUBJECT: FRG BUNDESWEHR REORGAINZATION

REF: BONN 3511

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH COLONEL BRANDT (FMOD - POL/ MIL) THE WORK OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY STUDY GROUP REVIEWING THE FORCE STRUCTURE COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR REORGANIZING THE BUNDESWEHR. THE GROUP, ORGANIZED AT THE ARMED FORCES STAFF LEVEL, HAS MET IN RESTRICTED SESSIONS DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS, WITH THE AIM OF SUBMITTING TO MINISTER LEBER A PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF INDIVIDUAL SERVICE VIEWS. BRANDT TOLD US THE GROUP IS PRECEEDING UNDER LEBER' S PERSONAL GUIDANCE, THAT (1) THERE BE NO OVER-ALL REDUCTION IN THE PERSONNEL STRENGTH OR COMBAT CAPABILITY OF THE FRG FORCES, AND (2) THAT FULL CONSULTATION WITH NATO BE PROVIDED FOR AS PART AND PARCEL OF
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THE RESTRUCTURING PROCESS. THE GROUP (WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN RELIEVED OF ALL OTHER DUTIES IN ORDER TO

STUDY THE PROBLEM WITHOUT INTERRUPTION) EXPECTS TO COMPLETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL STUDY BY END OF APRIL. ACCORDING TO BRANDT, THE GROUP'S PROPOSALS ARE LIKELY TO SHAPE UP ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST, NO COMBAT UNITS WILL BE PUT ON CADRE STATUS, NOR WILL ANY OF THE BRIGADES, AS IN ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, BE PUT ON CADRE STATUS. THERE WILL BE NO CUTS IN ARMOR, AT, APC, ARTILLERY, OR OTHER MAJOR COMBAT ITEMS. THIRTY- SIX COMBAT BRIGADES WILL BE ORGANIZED. THE STUDY GROUP HOPES TO RESTRICT THE ENCADREMENT TO COMBAT SERVICE AND COMBAT SUPPORT ELEMENTS SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS, SUPPLY, MAINTENANCE, TRANSPORTATION, ENGINEER AND MEDICAL UNITS, AT THE DIVISION AND CORPS LEVEL. THESE UNITS, IN THE CURRENT THINKING, WOULD NOT BE PUT ON THE SAME CADRE BASIS; SOME, FOR INSTANCE, WOULD BE 25 PERCENT, OTHER AT 50 PERCENT, OF AUTHORIZED STRENGTH, DEPENDING UPON THE TYPE OF UNIT, M/3 MISSION, ETC. IN ADDITION, MANY INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY AT BRIGADE, DIVISION OR CORPS LEVELS, SUCH AS AIDES- DEC- CAMP OR STAFF WHICH COULD BE FILLED EASILY BY RESERVISTS AT M- DAY, WOULD BE PUT ON A CADRE BASIS, WERE THIS IS FEASIBLE WITHOUT LOSS OF COMBAT CAPABILITY. THIS CONCEPT IS, HOWEVER, NOW BEING EXPLORED, AND HAS NOT BEEN FULLY DEVELOPED.

3. THE RESERVISTS ASSIGNED TO THE CADRE UNITS WOULD BE ON AN IMMEDIATE (READY RESERVE) CALL- UP BASIS, BUT THE STUDY GROUP NOW BELIEVES IT UNNECESSARY TO HAVE TWO RESERVISTS FOR EACH CADRE UNIT SLOT. CURRENT THINKING POINTS TOWARD THE DIRECTION OF HAVING A RESERVIST ASSIGNED TO A CADRE UNIT FOR ONE YEAR OR 18 MONTHS ONLY, AT THE END OF WHICH HE WOULD BE RELEASED FROM A READY RESERVE BASIS. THIS WOULD AVOID, IT IS THOUGHT, THE HIGH EXPENSE OF CALLING UP SEPARATELY TWO GROUPS OF RESERVISTS FOR TRAINING AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE FORCE STRUCTURE COMMISSION PROPOSAL; THE READY RESERVISTS WOULD, UNDER THIS CONCEPT, BE ASSIGNED TO MOBILIZATION SLOTS FOR ABOUT A YEAR OR 18 MONTHS, DURING WHICH TIME THEY WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN THE CASE OF MOBILIZATION. IN ANY CASE, THE STUDY GROUP BELIEVED THE 2 FOR 1 RESERVISTS MOBILIZATION ASSIGNMENT PROPOSAL IS OVERLY EXPENSIVE AND NOT NECESSARILY EFFICIENT. AFTER A YEAR OR 18 MONTHS, NEW AND FRESHLY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED SOLDIERS, DIRECT FROM ACTIVE SERVICE, WOULD TAKE OVER THE MOBILIZATION SLOTS IN THE CADRE UNITS.

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4. BRANDT SAID A BASIC THOUGHT NOW GUIDING THE APPROACH OF THE STUDY GROUP IS THE NEED, IN VIEW OF THE ASSUMED BUDGET LIMITATIONS UNDER WHICH IT OPERATES, TO MAKE ECONOMIES BY MORE DIRECTLY TYING, SO TO SPEAK, THE BUNDESWEHR TO FRG TERRITORY. IN LINE WITH THIS CONCEPT, THE OLD TO& E AND STRUCTURE OF THE GERMAN ARMY MAY BE CHANGED TO MAKE IT MORE CLEARLY A DEFENSIVE FORCE. BRANDT EXPLAINED THAT THOSE UNITS OR POSITIONS, WHOSE FUNCTIONS ARE MORE CLEARLY DIRECTED TOWARD

SUSTAINED OPERATIONS OUTSIDE OF GERMAN TERRITORY, MAY BE DISCARDED FOR THE SAKE OF ECONOMY. HE NOTED THAT IN THE POST- WORLD WAR II PERIOD, THE GERMAN ARMY WAS ORGANIZED ALONG THE US TO& E; HOWEVER, THE US ORGANIZATION IS LARGELY ORIENTED TOWARD EXPEDITIONARY DUTIES. BRANDT SAID THE THINKING OF THE STUDY GROUP IS THAT THE US MODEL COULD BE DROPPED IN FAVOR OF AN ORGANIZATION WHICH MUST OPERATE ONLY ON HOME TERRITORY.

5. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THIS MEANS THAT CERTAIN TRANSPORTATION UNITS, SUPPLY UNITS, OR SIGNAL UNITS MAY WELL BE REDUCED, OR SIMPLY ABOLISHED. THE CENTRAL CONCEPT IS THAT THE BUNDESWEHR, IF ASSIGNED SOLELY A DEFENSIVE ROLE, WILL PROBABLY NOT NEED CERTAIN SUPPLY, MAINTENANCE OR TRANSPORTATION UNITS, IF DEPOTS COULD BE EFFICIENTLY LOCATED THROUGHOUT CORPS DEFENSE ZONES. LIKEWISE, CUTS IN MEDICAL UNITS COULD ALSO BE MADE IF CIVILIAN HOSPITAL FACILITIES COULD BE USED BY TROOPS IN A WARTIME SITUATION. BRANDT SAID THAT THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN THAT CONCEPT AND ITS REALIZATION. THE STUDY GROUP HAS, HOWEVER, GREAT LEEWAY IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE TO
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CHANGE, REJECT AND MODIFY THE FORCE STRUCTURE COMMISSION PROPOSALS. THEREFORE ITS OWN PROPOSALS MAY WELL INCLUDE SOME MODIFICATION OF THE OVER- ALL BUNDESWEHR STRUCTURE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO TIE IT MORE CLOSELY TO ITS TERRITORIAL ENVIRONMENT.

6. BRANDT CAUTIONED US THAT MANY OF THESE IDEAS ARE STILL IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE; AND IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER ALL, OR SOME, CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER, IT IS ALL BUT CERTAIN NOW THAT UNITS OF BRIGADE SIZE WILL NOT BE PLACED ON CADRE STATUS. THE STUDY GROUP APPARENTLY BELIEVED STRONGLY THAT ENCADREMENT OF COMBAT BRIGADES WAS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT SERIOUS LOSS OF COMBAT CAPABILITY.

7. FINALLY, THE GROUP IS PROCEEDING TO STUDY WAYS AND MEANS OF ESTABLISHING ON A STATUTORY BASIS THE 16 PERCENT AND 30 PERCENT BUDGETARY PROPOSALS OF

FORCE STRUCTURE COMMISSION. IT IS, FOR INSTANCE BY
NO MEANS CLEAR THAT UNDER THE BASIC LAW FUTURE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENTS COULD BE OBLIGATED TO EARMARK 30 PERCENT OF
ALL PUBLIC EXPENDITURES FOR DEFENSE. THE STUDY GROUP
IS, HOWEVER, PURSUING THIS KIND OF PROBLEM ALSO.
HILLENBRAND

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